

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A system and method for generating an animation video signal of sign language gestures corresponding to words in an audio/video signal for display on a monitor screen. A speech component is isolated from the audio/video signal and the spoken words in the speech signal are recognized. The spoken words are then used to identify sign language gestures which  
5 are mapped onto an animation model for generating an animation signal. The animation signal is used to animate a character icon stored in the monitor to display sign language gestures corresponding to the words of the speech signal.